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General and complete disarmament

Letter dated 19 December 2003 from the Permanent Representative of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General*

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith the text of the communiqué released by the Secretary of the General People's Committee for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation concerning the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya's satisfaction of all its obligations under treaties and conventions relating to the elimination of all types of weapons of mass destruction. In this connection the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya has agreed to sign the Additional Protocol to the Agreement on Safeguards and stated its readiness to receive the visits of inspection teams to verify its compliance with its commitments.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly.

(*Signed*) Ali Abdussalam **Treky**
Permanent Representative

* An identical letter dated 19 December 2003 was addressed to the President of the Security Council (see S/2003/1196).

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Annex to the letter dated 19 December 2003 from the Permanent Representative of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Communiqué of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya

In view of the international climate that prevailed during the Cold War and the tension that has gripped the Middle East region, the Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya called on the countries of the Middle East and Africa to make those regions a zone free of weapons of mass destruction. Since there was no serious response to its appeal, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya tried to develop its defence capabilities.

During talks held between Libyan, United States and United Kingdom experts concerning the activities of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya in that field, the Libyan experts briefed their counterparts on materials, equipment and programmes, such as centrifuges and containers for transporting chemicals, that might be used to produce internationally banned weapons. Following those talks between the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya and the United States of America and the United Kingdom, both permanent members of the Security Council, which is responsible for guaranteeing international peace and security, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya decided of its own free will to eliminate such materials, equipment and programmes, thus ridding itself of all internationally proscribed weapons.

The Libyan Arab Jamahiriya has also decided to limit its missile activities to missiles with a range consistent with that agreed under the Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR). It will take such measures in a transparent manner that permits of verification, including immediate international monitoring.

Furthermore, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya wishes to reaffirm that it considers itself bound by the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, the Agreement on Safeguards of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and the Convention on Biological Weapons and that it accepts any other commitments, including the Additional Protocol to the IAEA Safeguards Agreement, the Chemical Weapons Convention and the Biological Weapons Convention.

The Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, in its belief that the arms race is conducive neither to its own security nor to that of the region and runs counter to its strong desire for a world blessed with security and peace, wishes, through this initiative, to encourage all countries without exception to follow its example, starting with those of the Middle East region.

The Libyan Arab Jamahiriya will report thereon to the Security Council.